



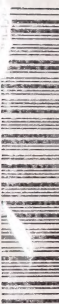
Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police

Gendarmerie royale  
du Canada

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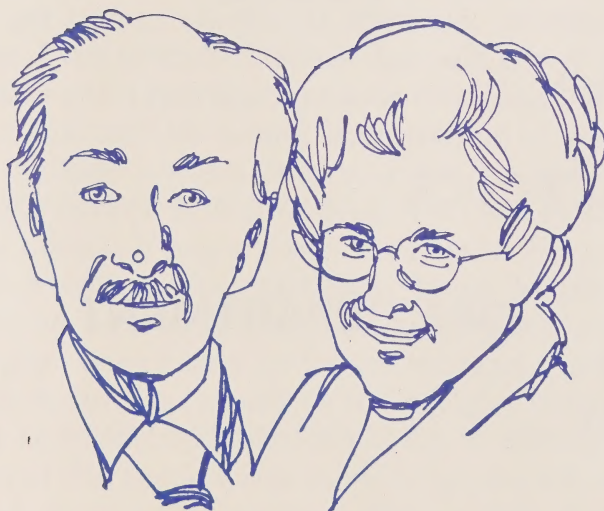


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# HOME PROTECTION

## FOR

### SENIOR CITIZENS



Canada

# EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## MEDICAL

DOCTOR .....

HOSPITAL .....

AMBULANCE .....

## POLICE

R.C.M.P. ....

LOCAL POLICE .....

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

LOCAL .....

## TELEPHONE OPERATOR

If you are having dialing problems, dial "0" and ask the operator to connect you to the emergency number you require.

# HOME PROTECTION

Many Canadians fail to take even fundamental precautions to secure their homes against robbery. Many have been lulled into thinking: "It cannot happen to me, not in my suburban neighbourhood or in this well-established city residential area." This approach makes the burglar's job much easier. If you still picture the burglar as a sinister thief operating at night, a handkerchief over his face, coat collar turned up and peaked cap on his head, you are wrong! Statistics indicate that the thief will most probably be one of the male youths in the neighbourhood, usually under 30 and most likely a teenager. He may be well dressed, wearing a recognizable uniform or a suit jacket. It will more than likely be broad daylight. The typical burglar does not want to harm you, just get into your home, steal what is available and valuable, and get out as quickly as possible, unobserved. The burglar likes unlocked doors; but will use a basement window or an open garage door. If necessary, your door or window will be forced open to gain access. Of course, a burglar prefers that you not be home, so he/she may first knock at your door. If no one answers, the burglar enters. If you answer, the person will probably ask for directions to a particular street or block so you will not become suspicious. Some burglars will assume you are not at home and enter without checking. Should this occur, do not attack the burglar who is as likely to be as frightened as you are. Try to memorize a description of the person, particularly facial characteristics. When the burglar leaves, call the police immediately.

There are two important factors in preventing this type of crime:



1. Awareness of your vulnerability to this type of offence and who commits it.
2. Making a security check of your residence to determine possible entry points and any weaknesses they may have.

In doing your security check, ask yourself: "If I were a burglar, how would I break into my home?" Remember, the burglar likes to work unseen. Focus on entry areas protected by shrubs and side or rear entrances. If you are not sure how to do a security check, contact your local police department and ask for literature on home security. This literature will provide you with information on how to secure windows, doors, etc., and what precautions you can take to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

The basic preventive steps for securing your home vary under different circumstances.

## AT HOME

See the safety in your home section of the crime prevention booklet **Safety Tips for Senior Citizens**. You should apply the tips it gives regarding door and telephone callers. Burglars sometimes use the telephone to determine if anyone is home.

## AWAY FROM HOME

Secure all the windows and doors of your home and garage before you leave.

Leave a radio playing to suggest that someone is home. If you are away during part of the evening, leave one or two lights on.

If you will be absent from your home for a period of time (holidays, etc.), stop mail and newspaper deliveries or

make arrangements with someone to have them picked up. An accumulation of newspapers and mail indicates that no one is home. Have a neighbour look after your home, that is the best security. Notify your local police department that you are going to be absent, how long you will be away and where you can be contacted if necessary. Should a knowing neighbour or police patrol observe some person prowling around your home while you are gone, they will not hesitate to take the appropriate action.

Home security is more than locks and lights. Your best protection is working together with neighbours to keep watch on each other's property. The "Neighbourhood Watch" program was developed in response to neighbourhood crime problems. Further information on this program is available from your local police department.

## **VALUABLES**

Valuables, such as gold rings, diamonds, silver, etc., should be kept in a safe-deposit box at your bank. If this is not possible, then all valuables should be kept locked up in a reasonable hiding place in your home.

Jewel cases that are kept in the open should not contain any of your valuable jewelry. A few inexpensive but rich-looking pieces can be kept in the jewel case as a decoy. This may satisfy the burglar and deter unnecessary ransacking of your home in search of valuables.

Large amounts of money should not be kept in the home at any time.

Some valuables, such as silver tea services and heirlooms, cannot be hidden. Operation Identification has been developed by the police to assist people in marking their property with a particular identification number

(usually their Social Insurance Number). Although this method is not an absolute guarantee of protection, some thieves are reluctant to burglarize a residence that is involved in the Operation Identification program. The marking of articles also gives the police a better chance of identifying and returning your property, should it be recovered. Contact your local police department for assistance.

Throughout this booklet we have referred to some types of crimes which could occur. We have not discussed all of them. This booklet gives guidelines for recognizing a crime or a potentially dangerous situation and it provides you with information on how to protect yourself and your property. You are your best protector; your common sense and awareness will greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim. Should anything happen to you that you are suspicious or unsure of, your first course of action should be to call your local police department.



## REMINDER

### PREVENT CRIME THROUGH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

This crime prevention booklet was designed to inform and help protect Canada's senior population against various criminal activities.

Research indicates that most crimes against seniors are committed by the opportunist. Education and awareness of some preventive techniques can help you recognize a potential crime situation and allow positive action to be taken that will reduce or remove the risk.


Research also indicates that for many seniors one of the biggest concerns is the fear of victimization. But it is difficult to prevent something from happening if you do not know what it is you are attempting to prevent. Therefore, while it is not possible in the space available to discuss all the crime problems that concern our society, this booklet deals with crimes that are most likely to affect YOU.

There is evidence that some people who have been victimized are too embarrassed to report the incident to the authorities. For your own well-being and to help prevent others from becoming victims, if you have been victimized (or THINK you have been) REPORT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

## NOTES



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or printed text on the paper.



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